



On The Reel

PINE RIVER AREA CHAPTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another regular trout season is behind us. I hope most of you were more **successful than** I was. Hot weather and warm water temperatures kept me off of some of our local waters and the flashiness of the Pine made fishing there a real gamble. I can recall leaving my home just east of Cadillac in dry clear weather, reaching the Pine and finding out that a hard rain had fallen there. This happened on numerous occasions.

The chapter had another successful fund raising event on the usual first Sat. in May. Again thanks to those who attended and a big thanks to those who contributed prizes for our raffles and auctions. In these tough times it is good to have such great support.

With such support, the chapter was able to assist with 2 youth events at Schmidt Outfitters this past August. Over 30 youths took part in learning the basics of fly fishing, a little stream ecology, knot tying and casting. This is a fun event! And it is free to the participants! If you know of any youngsters who might want to try fly fishing, girl or boy, contact Schmidt Outfitters of Wellston.

The River Keepers program continues to be a major activity. Last year our involvement consisted of electro-shocking of 3 tributaries of the Pine. This year we electro-shocked 2 additional tribs and expanded our efforts into temperature monitoring 6 site locations on Coe Creek, the East Branch of the Pine and the Rose Lake outlet. The chapter made a major contribution towards the purchase of the shocking equipment which will be available for use by other Michigan T.U. chapters. We also purchased the temperature recorders and the associated software. This work was done with the co-operation of the DNRE and the info collected has been/will be provided to them. We appreciate the assistance of the DNRE, Mark Tonello especially. Mark gave us a few lessons on how to use the equipment most effectively. We also appreciate the assistance of MITU's Kristin Thomas. Kristin is an aquatic biologist and co-ordinates the River Keepers program.

Sediment basins (sand traps) have become a hot topic of late. The Forest Service has announced that it is discontinuing the operation of 18 basins in the Manistee National Forest area. A reason given for this was that the benefit of the traps has reached a point of diminishing value. The MDNE's position is unclear, but they have said that due to their very limited construction crew and equipment situation, dam removal projects has top priority over emptying traps. The chapter has continued its support in maintaining a sediment basin on the Pine. This year we have been assisted by the Pine River Association and the Wer-Hee-Gon club.

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<u>Chapter Officers</u>	<u>Board Members</u>	
Denny Douglas President	Brock Arms	John Mckellop
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Up Coming Events

Fly Tying Classes

The Pine River Area Chapter of Trout Unlimited will be conducting fly tying classes every Wednesday of the month of February at the Carl T. Johnson Hunting and Fishing Center, Cadillac. The class runs from 6 to 9pm. All tools and materials provided. Donations welcome! For more details and information contact: Terry Tatrchuk, ttatrchuk@gmail.com

Ask the MDNR Fisheries Biologist

What is the correct way to catch and release trout?

The answer to this question is not as simple as it seems. There are many factors that go into whether or not a fish can be successfully released. One major factor is water temperature. Once water temperatures get much over 70 degrees Fahrenheit, many trout that are caught and released simply do not survive, even if they initially swim away. Another very important factor is the amount of time that a fish is out of the water. Simply put, the less time the fish is out of the water, the better chance it will have to survive. There's nothing wrong with holding a fish up to snap a quick picture, but then get that fish right back into the water if you want to release it. Gentle handling of a trout is also critical. Allowing it to flop wildly on the rocks on the streambank is not good. To help a trout recover, the best thing to do is to hold it in the water facing upstream, so that the water will flow over the gills of the fish. Hold the fish upright in the water until you feel it begin to move away. When fishing from a boat, a boga grip may be a big help in holding the fish in the water for recovery.

When fishing bait, if a fish takes the hook deeply, it is best to simply cut the line and leave the hook in place. Eventually, the hook will rust out and the fish will be fine. Attempting to remove a hook that has been taken deeply will likely result in fatal injuries to the fish.

A fish that bleeds heavily is one that likely will not survive. This usually happens if a fish takes the offering deep, and the hook ruptures a gill. I have caught several steelhead that had survived a previously severed gill, but that is rare.

Whether to release or not is a question that we all must answer when we catch a trout. Releasing trout is especially important for growing large, adult “trophy” size trout. For me personally, one factor that goes into my decision of whether or not to release a trout is whether it is a wild trout or one that was stocked from a hatchery. I tend to keep hatchery trout for the table, while releasing trout of wild origin. Even on wild trout streams however, there is also nothing wrong with keeping the occasional fish. Instead of releasing a bleeding or completely exhausted fish to die and be eaten by turtles, keep it (as long as it is legal to do so) and put it to good use. After all, even wild trout are a renewable resource.

Mark Tonello
Fisheries Management Biologist
Central Lake Michigan Management Unit
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Pine River Area Chapter is offering Logo fishing shirts to all members.

A number of you have asked us if it is possible to have a logo shirt available for all the club members. We have contacted O'Keefe's Reef of Dublin, MI and these are now available in OLIVE. The sizes range from XS to XXL. They are 65% Polyester, 35% cotton with Square tails. The logo of your chapter is embroidered above the left front pocket. We will be selling them for \$30.00 each. Your ordered shirt can be picked up at Schmidt Outfitters in Wellston, or we can mail it to you for an extra \$5.00 to cover shipping. To place an order, email Terry Tatarchuk at ttatarchuk@gmail.com please specify SIZE, QUANTITY, MAILING ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, and IF YOU WILL PICK UP AT SCHMIDT'S. Make out your check to Pine River Area Chapter of Trout Unlimited (P.R.A.C.T.U.) for either \$30.00 or \$35.00 for each shirt. We will let you know by email when the shirts arrive.



SEND US YOUR SUGGESTIONS

We would like our newsletter filled with plenty of useful content. If you would like to see something added, or have a suggestion on how to improve the content, feel free to email to Bob Rought at tut Trout@yahoo.com

Get involved – Volunteer

We dedicate ourselves to presenting timely and informative news concerning local conservation, restoration and related topics. We also organize various outings, have educational programs and Conservation work. As volunteers, the results from our activities are both fun and satisfying. If you share our passions for conservation, then please consider joining and participating in Trout Unlimited.

GO TO OUR WEB SITE TO JOIN: <http://www.pineriverareatu.org/>

THOUGHTS FROM THE STREAM

SOFT HACKLES

They may be the easiest, most effective, cheapest and least technical way to catch trout with a fly rod. Soft hackles - tie them on, cast quartering downstream and hang on. The strikes are usually hard and fish have a tough time refusing them.

Early last century when wet flies were developed and becoming popular the Brits developed something they called “spiders”. About 30 years ago they were popularized by an American writer- Sylvester Nemes. The fly is fairly simple to tie. They may have a tail (or not), the body used to be silk floss but my preference is PT or dubbing with a fine copper rib, a peacock herl thorax (or dubbed) and a SOFT hackle. Sparse is good. My favorite hackle is Hungarian Partridge but local grouse will do and for the really small patterns starling is best. I tie them in sizes 12 to 22 and any nymph pattern can be soft hackled. The hackle must be soft so it waves in the water and imitates life. I prefer a nymph hook. It adds a little weight and is less likely to bend with hard strikes but I often use dry fly hooks. A glass bead or a bead head is another option.

The cast is made quartering downstream and the really unusual aspect is that effort is made NOT to have a dead drift presentation. You have to feel the fly and thus the strike. Mends can be made up or downstream to affect the drift and very small twitches made to move the fly. Close contact with the fly is essential. I like to follow the fly with my rod tip and lift it with any sense of something touching the fly. Most strikes occur late in the drift as the fly reaches the surface of the water.

There is no way to know what this fly suggests to any one fish. The strikes are usually in the top 6” of water. It is effective as a dropper in a 2 fly rig and often triggers strikes in rising fish. My sense is that this one fly can imitate an emerger, an egg laying diver or a cripple. Whatever. If the size and color is close, the fish will eat it.

In truth, this is one of the easiest ways to search a lot of water for active fish when the choice of a dry fly or nymph isn’t clear. Even the most sophisticated fish rarely see a soft hackle. Just tie one on and then hang on - it really works. Chuck Dumanois

NEWS LETTER CHANGES

The Pine River Area Chapter is currently in the process of improving our Newsletter and keeping it more up to date. We plan to put out a newsletter every three months. The cost is expensive to produce and mail. So we plan to email, if you would prefer to have it mailed please send your name and address and also send us your email address to the editor, Bob Rought at tutrout@yahoo.com using email will help improve communication and save a lot of paper. Thank you in advance.

SEND US YOUR SUGGESTIONS

We would like our newsletter filled with plenty of useful content. If you would like to see something added, or have a suggestion on how to improve the content, feel free to email to Bob Rought at tutrout@yahoo.com

Website

Bob Rought tutrout@yahoo.com has taken over as webmaster of the Chapter's new website. The site is still in the developmental stages, and new pages and information will be available as the site develops. The address is <http://www.pineriverareatu.org/>

Asian Carp Update

Washington – John Goss, the Council Environmental Quality's Asian Carp Director, has invited all Great lakes states to join the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee (ACRCC). The ACRCC is charged with establishing a unified response to Asian carp across all levels of government to prevent environmental and economic damage to the Great Lake. Coordination among Federal, state and local governments will ensure the most effective strategy and actions necessary to combat the spread of Asian carp.

Please check their website. www.asiancarp.org

STOP ASIAN CARP

PROTECT OUR GREAT LAKES

Strategic plan for Pine River Area Chapter

On October 28, 2010 your Board Members met with Dr. Bryan Burroughs, Michigan's TU Executive Director. The purpose of this meeting was to develop a strategy plan to set up our objectives and strategies. A lengthy discussion was held, board members gave their opinions. The conclusion was that we will focus the Pine River, with direction focusing on the River keepers Program. Over the next few months the Board will be working on setting up objectives and implementing a schedule. Both Dr. Brian Burroughs and Kristin Thomas will be working with us to implement our strategic plan. The purpose of this is to spend our money wisely to benefit our cold water fisheries.

PINE RIVER AREA CHAPTER 2011

BANQUET

25th Annual Conservation Banquet Saturday, May 7, 2011 Caberfae Peaks Ski Resort 6440 South 11 Road-Cadillac, MI Cocktails: 5:00 pm. Dinner: 7:00 pm .Tickets: \$40.00 Each - \$15.00 Children 12 & Under Raffles – Silent Auction – Door Prizes – Wildlife Art Fishing Equipment - Crafts and more For Banquet & Ticket information contact John Zakrajsek, Cadillac 231-775-3546

**TROUT
MAKE GOOD
NEIGHBORS**